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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 248

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

JANUARY, 1964

172,400 Wage Earners On December Payrolls

A seasonal decline of 2,500 workers in non-farm employment from November to December was recorded as the first real winter weather began. This left 172,400 workers on industrial and commercial payrolls at mid-December; the second highest employment of record for that month. Employment declines, tied chiefly to those industries easily affected by weather conditions, were most noticeable in the construction work force. Employment also dropped seasonally in logging, lumbering, oil field activities, and other outdoor endeavors.

Normal Winter Trends Prevail

Mid-winter labor market patterns in Montana showed much the same trends as in past years. The sharpest over the month employment cut was in construction where payrolls dropped by 2,700 workers. Building construction, dam, and highway projects nearly equally shared this deficit. Most highway projects were either suspended until spring or worked only skeleton crews. The construction labor force at Yellowtail Dam near Hardin dropped from 1,000 to 300. Declines were also evident at the Clark-Canyon Dam project near Dillon. Interior and finish work on some enclosed structures continued without interruption.

Monthly seasonal declines in other major industry groups were less pronounced. Manufacturing industries used 400 fewer workers during December with a drop of 300 in the durable goods segment and 100 in the non-durable goods group. Mining, finance, insur-

ance, and real estate, and government employment showed declines of 100 each. Employment in the service industries, at 23,600, showed no change from the previous month.

Hiring in trade industries was fairly active during the holiday buying season, but fell slightly short of activity last year. About 900 extra workers were hired by main street merchants during December.

Yearly Decline of 1,100

Employment in December 1962, at 173,500, was the highest of record for that month. The 1,100 employment decline from that time to December 1963 was chiefly the result of completed Minuteman missile activity. It shows in a drop of 1,200 in manufacturing employment and a 600 deficit in construction payrolls this December from a year ago. Employment was also down in three other industries from December 1962. Employment in trade industries was 600 short while payrolls in mining and finance, insurance, and real estate units were down 100 each. Three industry groups posted gains over the year. Government employment was up 1,100. The service industries, and transportation, utilities, and communications were up 200 each.

Anaconda Ponders Its Future

Government and private economic study groups are active in the Anaconda area. Their concern is for the displacement of workers there when copper concentrating operations shift to an automated plant at Butte in the near future. The problem is serious and of real concern to the whole community. Government funds of \$675,000 have

been allotted for the training of workers for other occupations.

1963 UCC Benefit Total: \$6,998,820

Unemployed workers received \$6,998,820 in state UCC benefit payments during 1963. Of this amount \$6,331,675 was paid to workers in Montana while \$667,145 went to workers whose wage credits were earned in Montana but who had moved to other states in search of employment. In Montana unemployed workers in Cascade County received the most with \$1,047,965 in UCC benefit checks. The next three highest counties in order were: Yellowstone, \$772,534; Flathead, \$509,585; and Silver Bow, \$486,987.

Federal payments to unemployed federal civilian workers and ex-servicemen came to \$683,200 in 1963. These payments were made entirely from federal funds and not from the Montana Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund.

Farm Labor Demand Quiet

Farm labor demand was not too active during December and January. With few exceptions, range land was open in many statewide areas eliminating any great need for livestock feeders and other winter farm and ranch hands. December job placements in agriculture totaled 325 workers.

Sugar beet refining operations ended at Missoula during late January. Over 1,000 workers are still employed at plants in Billings, Hardin and Sidney. The Billings and Hardin operations will finish the season's work about February 15th. Activity at the Sidney refinery will continue until March 12th.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Nov. 1963	2) Oct. 1963	Nov. 1962	Nov. 1963	Oct. 1963	Nov. 1962	Nov. 1963	Oct. 1963	Nov. 1962	Nov. 1963	Oct. 1963	Nov. 1962	Nov. 1963	Oct. 1963	Nov. 1962
All Manufacturing	2.7	4.4	3.2	2.1	3.6	2.3	3.1	5.3	4.7	1.5	2.1	1.4	1.1	2.1	1.3
Durable Goods	3.1	5.1	4.7	2.3	4.1	3.4	3.6	5.3	7.0	1.7	2.2	2.1	1.3	1.7	1.8
Primary Metal	4.8	5.6	3.6	2.1	2.9	0.1	1.4	3.5	10.1	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.3	2.0
Nondurable Goods	2.0	2.9	1.2	1.8	2.5	0.9	2.1	5.3	1.7	1.1	2.0	0.3	0.7	2.8	0.9
All Mining	9.7	8.0	9.0	4.9	4.1	3.5	5.9	6.4	8.2	3.2	3.5	2.4	0.6	0.5	2.6
Metal Mining	8.7	8.2	10.6	3.7	3.3	2.7	4.4	4.7	4.2	2.2	1.7	2.0	0.2	0.8	0.1

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Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary December 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(458 jobseekers, 147 new, 364 men, 94 women). Mid-winter labor market activity at low ebb with seasonal declines in most industries and continuing layoffs at smelter operations. Smelter employment shows big drop from year ago. Government and private groups studying solutions for community's economic ills. Some business closures already noted.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,814 jobseekers, 780 new, 2,073 men, 741 women). Building and heavy construction suffered employment declines as cold weather and snow closed down many projects during December and January. No improvement seen until weather moderates. Post holiday layoffs of extra workers in trade and service industries continue. Some employment decline noted in transportation, chiefly in trucking operations. Farm labor demand mainly for livestock feeders, but not too active.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(446 jobseekers, 173 new, 326 men, 120 women). Normal seasonal declines evident in mid-winter labor market. Labor demand mostly for unskilled and service workers. Construction work continues on limited basis on several major building projects. Seasonal closure of West Yellowstone lumber mill idled 40, but about 200 others employed in area logging and sawmill work. Main street hiring slackened off after holiday season.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,229 jobseekers, 380 new, 839 men, 390 women). Construction, smelter, and post holiday trade industry layoffs accounted for most new unemployment. Mining continues to be the bright spot as hiring increases. Government sponsored training classes for miners attracts new applicants. Highway construction shut down for winter.

CUT BANK—(381 jobseekers, 77 new, 288 men, 93 women). New work applications increased as Babb and Browning public work project workers were idled. Labor demand not too brisk but some hiring noted in lumbering, trade, oil fields, and trucking. Only limited farm labor demand.

DILLON—(270 jobseekers, 100 new, 232 men, 38 women). Labor demand cut sharply by snow and cold weather. Most major construction projects idle. Main street activity reduced appreciably after holiday season. Some farm labor demand with more seen next 30 days.

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment	Dec. 1963	Nov. 1963	Dec. 1962	Dec. Avg. 1954-63
Industrial Employment	172,400	174,900	173,500	164,600
New Job Applicants	3,995	3,676	4,435	4,156
Job Applicants, End of Month	14,251	10,396	11,927	14,234
Insured Unemployment Week of	Jan. 3 1964	Dec. 6 1963	Jan. 4 1963	Jan. Wk. 1960-64 Avg. 1st
New and Renewal Claims	1,319	1,381	1,687	2,303
Unemployed Weeks Filed	8,617	5,131	7,221	10,123
Total Unemployed Claims	9,936	6,512	8,908	12,426

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(227 jobseekers, 63 new, 150 men, 77 women). Heavy layoffs of outdoor workers during the past 2 months stalled work on school building, housing units, among others. Work will resume as weather moderates. Main street merchants enjoyed good holiday trade but did little extra hiring. Farm labor demand continues slow.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(212 jobseekers, 81 new, 180 men, 32 women). Most construction work completely shut down; highway work will not resume until spring. Some building craftsmen employed in finish work on enclosed buildings. Holiday hiring along main street was not too active.

GREAT FALLS, Chouteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,494 jobseekers, 475 new, 1,789 men, 705 women). Employment patterns were rather on the passive side the last 2 months. Short time jobs seemed to be the rule for work in snow removal and extra post office help. Worker demand in trade industries dropped from previous years as merchandising methods improved. Construction layoffs accounted for most of the new unemployment for the past several months. Farm hiring not too sharp.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(324 jobseekers, 96 new, 263 men, 61 women). Jobseekers up 15% from last year with construction and forestry layoffs the chief factors. Logging and sawmill operations fairly stable. \$600,000 in building construction in finish stages. Unemployment claims nearly double last year's total.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(329 jobseekers, 129 new, 270 men, 59 women). Employment dropped in most industries during December and January. Most construction projects closed by cold weather but interior work continues on new high school employing 25. Trade and service employment cut back after holiday season. Idled public works projects workers add to employment count.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(688 jobseekers, 170 new, 555 men, 133 women).

Labor demand slowed considerably except for service and unskilled workers. Big drop in outdoor employment with work schedules keyed to weather conditions. Slow market and log shortages cut lumber mill activity at Lincoln and White Sulphur Springs. Farm jobs scarce.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,123 jobseekers, 221 new, 885 men, 238 women). New unemployment up sharply as declines occurred in construction and lumber manufacturing. Some sawmills eliminated night shifts. Trade and service units declining as business drops seasonally. Employment outlook next 30 days depends mainly on weather conditions.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(398 jobseekers, 88 new, 307 men, 91 women). Industry hiring down from last year but some upswing noted in farm labor demand. Declines from last year tied chiefly to completion of 4 major construction projects. About 70 currently employed on smaller projects. Trade and service volume fairly stable.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(377 jobseekers, 25 new, 246 men, 91 women). Seasonal factors dominate labor market conditions. Most highway and heavy construction closed until spring. Some upswing in railroad employment. Logging and sawmills on unsteady schedules due to road conditions and log shortages. Little demand for farm workers.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(294 jobseekers, 105 new, 241 men, 53 women). Little change in labor market activity from last year. New shopping center offers keen competition to downtown merchants. Furniture store closed during January. Future demand for farm labor depends on moisture conditions.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,015 jobseekers, 507 new, 693 men, 322 women). Economic trends temporarily depressed by weather-caused suspensions in some industries including construction, logging, and lumbering. Holiday hiring by trade industries was but half of that activity

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	171.4	175.7	182.9	182.3	181.8	181.2	178.9	174.9	172.4**	

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary December 1

in 1962. Activity in service industry drags. Hiring by railroads and utility firms matched 1962. Economic climate for 1964 appears good at this time.

Polson—(348 jobseekers, 62 new, 264 men, 84 women). Cold weather and snow clamped down on all outdoor work during December and January. Idled workers exceed totals of last year by good margin. No upturn in labor demand seen until weather improves.

SHELBY—(222 jobseekers, 159 new, 178 men, 44 women). Labor demand down 40% from last year. Cold weather shutdown construction projects. Oil field work has been on the slow side the past several months. Holiday hiring on main street fell below expectations.

SIDNEY—(162 jobseekers, 70 new, 139 men, 23 women). Job openings slacking off as economy adjusts to winter levels. Work continues on some enclosed buildings, but few employed. Several new projects totaling \$½ million expected to start during March. Not much demand for farm help.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(147 jobseekers, 45 new, 120 men, 27 women). Jobseeker files increased by 63% during December as seasonal employment declines occurred in most industries. December job placements were mostly at public work projects. About 80 employed on this government work at present. No demand for farm help.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(333 jobseekers, 42 new, 291 men, 42 women). Big drop in construction employment as some projects completed and others shut down by weather. Oil field activity shows some improvement as 2 drilling rigs started operations during December. Employment in trade and service units keeps fairly stable. Only light demand for farm hands.

All employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1962 to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 807 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,214 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Dec. 1963 (2)	Nov. 1963 (3)	Dec. 1962	Nov. '63 to Dec. '63	Dec. '62 to Dec. '63
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	172,400	174,900	173,500	-2,500	-1,100
Manufacturing	22,300	22,700	23,500	-400	-1,200
Durable goods	13,600	13,900	15,100	-300	-1,500
Lumber and timber products	8,900	9,000	8,300	-100	600
Primary metals	3,200	3,200	3,200	00	00
Other (4)	1,500	1,700	3,600	-200	-2,100
Nondurable goods	8,700	8,800	8,400	-100	300
Food and kindred products	5,200	5,300	5,100	-100	100
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,700	00	100
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,000	00	200
Other (5)	700	700	600	00	100
Mining	7,000	7,100	7,100	-100	00
Metal mining	4,200	4,200	4,100	00	100
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	900	800	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,900	2,000	2,200	-100	300
Contract Construction	10,600	13,300	11,200	-2,700	-600
Contractors, building construction	2,900	4,200	3,400	-1,300	500
Contractors, other than building	3,100	4,100	3,000	-1,000	100
Contractors, special trade	4,600	5,000	4,800	-400	200
Transportation and utilities	17,700	17,700	17,500	00	200
Interstate railroads	7,900	7,900	7,900	00	00
Transportation except railroads	4,100	4,100	3,800	00	300
Utilities including communication	5,700	5,700	5,800	00	100
Trade	41,100	40,200	41,700	900	-600
Wholesale trade	8,700	8,800	8,600	-100	100
Retail trade	32,400	31,400	33,100	1,000	700
General merchandise and apparel	7,000	6,200	7,300	800	300
Food stores	4,800	4,800	5,200	00	400
Eating and drinking establishments	7,800	7,900	7,600	-100	200
Automotive and filling stations	6,600	6,400	6,600	200	00
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,200	6,100	6,400	100	200
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,700	6,800	6,800	-100	00
Services and miscellaneous	23,600	23,600	23,400	00	200
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,200	3,200	2,900	00	300
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Other (6)	18,300	18,300	18,400	00	100
Government	43,400	43,500	42,300	-100	1,100
Federal	11,700	11,600	11,900	100	200
State and local	31,700	31,900	30,400	-200	1,300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	21,600	22,200	25,300	-600	-3,700
Manufacturing	3,000	3,000	5,300	00	-2,300
Contract construction	1,700	2,300	3,000	-600	-1,300
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,200	2,200	-100	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,700	5,600	5,900	100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100
Government	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	23,100	23,600	23,200	-500	100
Manufacturing	2,800	3,100	2,800	-300	00
Contract construction	1,300	1,600	1,300	-300	00
Transportation and utilities	2,600	2,600	2,500	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,300	7,200	7,500	100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,400	00	100
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,100	4,100	4,100	00	00
Government	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER 1963 AND DECEMBER 1962

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	Dec. 1963		Dec. 1962		Dec. 1963		Dec. 1962		Dec. 1963				Dec. 1962				Wk 1-3	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1963	1962
Anaconda	147	54	69	16	458	121	348	58	41	1	42	13	41	2	43	19	386	289
Billings	780	197	960	234	2,814	679	2,512	580	401	72	473	169	439	93	532	175	1,642	1,632
Bozeman	173	22	176	35	446	92	428	95	120	16	136	33	120	19	139	31	261	342
Butte	280	88	370	86	1,229	277	884	215	98	7	105	32	159	9	168	51	702	603
Cut Bank	77	27	60	23	381	130	328	117	40	7	47	10	20	5	25	5	207	171
Dillon	100	29	64	16	270	71	134	36	18	43	61	33	48	35	83	37	189	94
Glasgow	63	6	106	18	227	50	338	46	48	6	54	12	54	8	62	8	274	292
Glendive	81	27	102	6	212	53	288	21	39	7	46	11	65	11	76	11	137	125
Great Falls	475	107	591	164	2,494	675	1,691	511	215	30	245	83	318	30	348	108	1,716	1,254
Hamilton	96	18	48	6	324	68	274	65	25	4	29	4	36	9	45	9	244	208
Havre	129	12	166	35	329	77	382	114	53	5	58	17	101	6	107	22	311	264
Helena	170	38	231	45	688	213	690	232	127	11	138	28	121	13	134	25	539	505
Kalispell	221	40	292	64	1,123	307	948	249	124	8	132	34	96		96	23	898	912
Lewistown	88	26	107	26	398	103	340	85	32	45	77	10	65	19	84	27	331	324
Livingston	25	2	67	18	337	77	312	55	57	15	72	18	121	8	129	34	310	298
Miles City	105	17	120	27	294	73	178	46	36	18	54	19	134	17	51	20	234	233
Missoula	507	88	603	79	1,015	180	843	159	198	7	205	43	230	17	247	79	745	572
Polson	62	16	80	28	348	91	257	76	17	2	19	8	15	2	17	9	209	216
Shelby	159	46	53	17	222	71	262	75	27	6	33	7	41	4	45	15	154	179
Sidney	70	8	65	10	162	24	139	37	31	7	38	7	32	13	45	16	119	96
Thomp. Falls	45	10	60	15	147	29	117	26	27		27	11	32		32	11	124	110
Wolf Point	42	5	45	7	333	71	234	61	8	8	16	3	26	9	35	12	204	189
TOTALS	3,995	883	4,435	975	14,251	3,532	11,927	2,959	1,782	325	2,107	605	2,214	329	2,543	747	9,936	8,908

*Includes 943 claims of the Fed. UC Program 939 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. (1) 1963	Nov. (2) 1963	Dec. 1962	Dec. (1) 1963	Nov. (2) 1963	Dec. 1962	Dec. (1) 1963	Nov. (2) 1963	Dec. 1962
All Manufacturing	\$103.22	\$105.34	\$107.73	39.1	39.9	40.5	2.64	2.64	2.66
Durable Goods	100.10	104.26	109.86	38.5	40.1	41.3	2.60	2.60	2.66
Primary Metals	110.29	111.38	104.00	41.0	41.1	40.0	2.69	2.71	2.60
Nondurable Goods	108.80	107.05	103.86	40.0	39.5	38.9	2.72	2.71	2.67
Food and Kindred Products	90.06	92.23	90.32	39.5	40.1	40.5	2.28	2.30	2.23
All Mining	119.14	118.15	110.68	40.8	40.6	40.1	2.92	2.91	2.76
Metal Mining	117.60	117.60	112.12	39.2	39.2	39.9	3.00	3.00	2.81
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	106.93	106.26	101.27	39.9	39.5	39.1	2.68	2.69	2.59

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
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Act of Congress

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